

Members

Sen. R. Michael Young, Chairperson  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Rep. James Buck  
Rep. Ed Mahern  
Dan Gammon  
Paul Ricketts  
Rick Snyder  
Vince Huber  
Joe Anderson  
Tom Hanify  
Dr. Philip Borst  
Monroe Gray  
Cathy Burton  
John S. Myrland  
A. Scott Chinn



# MARION COUNTY CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION

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Authority: P. L. 227-2005

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2005  
**Meeting Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., Senate Chambers  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 5

**Members Present:** Sen. R. Michael Young, Chairperson; Sen. Billie Breaux; Rep. James Buck; Rep. Ed Mahern; Dan Gammon; Paul Ricketts; Rick Snyder; Vince Huber; Joe Anderson; Tom Hanify; Dr. Philip Borst; Monroe Gray; Cathy Burton; John S. Myrland; A. Scott Chinn.

**Members Absent:** None.

Sen. Young called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The first two speakers presented the results of the studies that were conducted at the request of the Commission:

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

**Samuel R. Staley, Ph.D. Reason Foundation, Indiana Policy Review Foundation**

Dr. Staley discussed the two reports prepared by the Indiana Policy Review Foundation: a survey of academic experts regarding the effects of city-county consolidation (Exhibit 1) and a review of academic literature regarding the effects of city-county consolidation (Exhibit 2). Dr. Staley summarized the methods used to prepare the reports. (Exhibit 3). Commission members discussed the results of the studies and factors that may have affected the research results.

**Jeffrey A. Peters, MPA, CPA, Reedy & Peters, LLC**

Mr. Peters discussed his firm's analysis of the source data, assumptions, end result financing, and tax effects relative to the Indianapolis Works proposal. (Exhibit 4). Mr. Peters discussed how the report uses the methodology of the Indianapolis Works proposal to the extent possible. Commission members discussed the differences between the report and the Indianapolis Works Plan (See Exhibit 4, pg. 40).

Scott Chinn asked Sen. Young if Commission Members could submit for the record, a summary response to the reports presented by Dr. Staley and Mr. Peters. Sen. Young announced that Commission members could submit any comments that they want included in the final report by noon on Wednesday, November 23 to LSA Staff Attorney Anne Haley. The comments will be distributed to Commission members and voted on at the November 28 meeting for possible inclusion in the final report. The Commission discussed the following Preliminary Drafts (PDs):

**PD 3516: Marion County fire consolidation (Exhibit 5)**

Tom Hanify discussed PD 3516, which would merge the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) and the township fire departments on January 1, 2007. Mr. Hanify distributed handouts regarding the proposal to consolidate fire departments (Exhibit 6) and the recommendations of the city-county council's consolidation task force committee (Exhibit 7). The Commission voted by consent to amend PD 3516 to require the city-county council to approve the fire consolidation in the same manner that SEA 307 requires approval of a police consolidation. After Commission discussion, Mr. Hanify suggesting amending the PD by adding an advisory board and amending other statutes to reflect that the township trustees in Marion County would not have the duty to provide fire protection. Sen. Young suggested withdrawing the draft from consideration until certain questions about the draft were resolved. Mr. Hanify urged the Commission to reconsider and vote on the draft after its amendment at the November 28 meeting. PD 3516 was withdrawn from consideration. Senator Young said he would decide at a later time whether to amend the draft and have the Commission reconsider it for a vote at the November 28 meeting.

**PD 3507: Indianapolis special service districts (Exhibit 8)**

Rep. Mahern withdrew PD 3507 from the consideration of the Commission.

**PD 3471: Township trustee and assessor term of office (Exhibit 9)**

Rep. Mahern explained that PD 3471 reduces the terms of Marion County township trustees and assessors from four to two years to ease the transition if the offices are eliminated and consolidation occurs. The Commission discussed amending the draft to have the provision expire in 2010 in the event consolidation does not occur. A motion was made to recommend PD 3471 for introduction during the next General Assembly. The motion failed when less than a majority of appointed members voted in favor of it.

**PD 3563: Indianapolis/Marion County consolidation (Exhibit 10)**

Sen. Breaux summarized PD 3563. Scott Chinn explained that the PD 3563 represents the remainder of the Indianapolis Works Plan after SEA 307 passed, with the addition of amendments made to the legislation during the session. Commission members discussed the contents of the draft and pointed out that the draft does not require that the city-county council take action in order for the consolidation to occur. A motion was made to recommend PD 3563

for introduction during the next General Assembly. The motion failed when less than a majority of appointed members voted in favor of it.

**PD 3561: Marion County small claims court constables (Exhibit 11)**

Sen. Young withdrew PD 3561 from the consideration of the Commission.

**PD 3417: Nepotism in Marion County political subdivisions (Exhibit 12)**

Sen. Young explained that the charge of the Commission is limited to Marion County so PD 3417 accordingly applies only to Marion County. Rick Snyder suggested amending PD 3417 on page 2, line 8, changing "police officer" to "law enforcement officer" making the point that police officer is a narrower term. The Commission took a roll call vote and adopted the amendment. PD 3417, as amended, was recommended for introduction during the next General Assembly by a vote of 11 to 3.

**PD 3554: Marion County government matters (Exhibit 13)**

Sen. Young distributed a written amendment to PD 3554 (Exhibit 14) that the Commission adopted by consent. Sen. Young stated that PD 3554 does not consolidate the IFD and the township fire departments, but does promote consolidation of functions. The PD creates a safety board that includes the mayor of Indianapolis and the township trustees of the townships (other than Center Township) as members and an advisory board that includes the fire chiefs of all departments in Marion County. He explained other aspects of the draft, including reducing the membership of the township boards from seven to five members to create cost savings. PD 3554, as amended, was recommended for introduction during the next General Assembly by a vote of 8 to 5.

**Future meeting date; adjournment**

Sen. Young said that the last meeting of the Commission would be held on November 28, 2005 at 10 a.m. in the Senate Chambers. He said that the Commission will vote on the final report of the Commission at that time. He reminded members to submit any comments for possible inclusion in the final report to Staff Attorney Anne Haley no later than noon on Wednesday, November 23, 2005. The comments will be distributed to members before the meeting. Sen. Young adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.